(*b*) if so, with which company they have insured them and in whose name;

(*c*) what is the total amount paid in 1118 and 1119 on insurance of food grains: and

(*d*) whether any other Government or Native States have insured their food grains as this State has done?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(*a*) Food grains carried by steamers were being insured against marine risks. But the practice has recently been discontinued.

(*b*) The insurance is effected by the Shippers with various companies.

(*c*) Figures will be collected.

(*d*) Yes.

Purchase of local paddy.

161. *** Mr. K. C. Chandy** (*Thodupuzha cum Meenachil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the general principle on which the purchase of local paddy is declared to be made, has been modified since the date of the Press Note dated 1st September 1943; and

(*b*) if so, what were (i) the reasons which induced Government to make the modification; and

(ii) the modifications introduced?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) No.

(*b*) (i) and (ii) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

Purchase of paddy from land holders.

162. ***Mr. K. C. Chandy**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have issued any directions to Purchasing Officers that paddy as per the Settlement Pattom must be purchased from every field irrespective of any consideration whether the land holder or the cultivator has any excess after meeting his minimum requirements for his bonafide domestic consumption;

(*b*) whether they are aware that Purchasing Officers are making purchase of paddy as indicated in part (a) above;

(*c*) whether they have received representations pointing out the inequity of such a system of purchase and what action they have taken on the same;

(*d*) whether the Purchasing Officers are not allowing the cultivators of large paddy fields to retain the quantity of paddy needed for their annual domestic consumption; and

(*e*) whether it is their policy to make a discrimination in favour of owners and cultivators of large areas of paddy fields?

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Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) Under the procurement scheme every land holder or cultivator is bound to sell to Government a quantity of paddy equivalent to the Settlement Pattom of his holding, irrespective of whether the balance after such sale is sufficient to meet his full requirements for domestic consumption or not.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. They were considered and disposed of by Government.

(*d*) Yes; if there is sufficient quantity left with the cultivators after the sale of the quota to Government.

(*e*) No discrimination is shown in favour of owners of large area of paddy fields.

Purchase by the local Revenue Officers.

163. ***Mr. K. C. Chandy**: With reference to the statement in the Press Note dated the 1st September 1943 that "in order to facilitate the work of purchase by the local Revenue Officers agreeably to the principles laid down above, Government are taking steps to associate members of the Legislature with the Tahsildars in the respective taluks.....", will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) what steps were taken since the date of the Press Note for the contemplated association of the members of the Legislature;

(*b*) whether any instructions were issued to the Tahsildars for this end;

(*c*) if the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, to place on the table a copy of such instructions;

(*d*) whether the members of the Legislature were notified of the same; and

(*e*) if the answer to part (b) is in the negative, by what other means the contemplated association of members of the Legislature was brought about by Government?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) The Food Grains Purchase Officer addressed personal letters to the members of the Legislature requesting their co-operation as contemplated in the Press Note dated 1st September 1943.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Copy of the instructions issued to the Tahsildars is laid on the Secretary's table.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (b).

Midwives for Villages.

164. ***Mr. Paul A. Thallath**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

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